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Newsletter #26:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! I hope you all had a nice relaxing week. There isn't much to report since we are in the middle of summer. On the other hand, next week will be busy in Denver for most of us in the coin community. The ANA starts on Tuesday and runs through the end of the week.

Auctions at the ANA in Denver, Colorado

The two major auction houses Stacks, Bowers & Ponterio and Heritage will hold several sales throughout the week in Denver. There is a mix of U.S., world and ancient coins throughout the catalogs.

Stacks holds their auctions at the ANA on August 2-4 and Heritage on August 3 and 6.

While the U.S. and world coin portions of the auctions are typically where the strongest material is, there does tend to be some nice ancients that are worth to take a look. If you see any coins in either of these auction and want them viewed please do let me know as I will be there the entire week. Many of the coins are encapsulated so viewing them really is important.

Show Guide for the Summer ANA in Denver

The ANA offers various educational exhibits, lectures, club meetings, auctions and purchasing. If you are planning to attend the attached file will take you to the show guide for the ANA. It will help you navigate your week a bit easier. I also ran my first full page ad in the guide. It is gratifying to have your first ad run!

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Coin of the Week <http://www.shannaschmidt.com/coin-of-the-week/>

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Elagabalus. 218-219 AD. Rome mint. Æ Sestertius, 25.05g (30mm, 12h). IMP CAES M AVR ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right of emperor / Emperor driving slow quadriga left, holding branch and sceptre, star in field, SC in exergue.

Pedigree: E.A. Sydenham Collection, Glendining Auction, 10 December 1941, lot 258
Price: \$3,000

The reign of Elagabalus was short and convulsive. Chosen to succeed the assassinated Caracalla at the young age of fourteen in 218 by a massive outlay of wealth to the legionary garrison at Raphanea in Syria, where the boy was a chief priest of the Semitic sun god El-Gabal (a fact that would play no small part in his downfall), Elagabalus began traveling west to Rome. Upon his arrival in the port of Bithynia, his religious beliefs and rites caused no small riot that resulted in the deaths of some of the young emperor's closest adherents. The imperial party reached Rome in the early autumn of 219, when, to the shock and dismay of not only the senate but the populace in general, many of Elagabalus's Syrian religious adherents were appointed to positions of great power and esteem, including Praetorian prefect and city prefect.

Elagabalus's inner circle faced a difficult task. The young emperor was fiercely independent, and was, to the dismay of the aristocracy, an open and unconcealed homosexual. While homosexuality had long been tolerated in Rome so long as it remained a sideline to heterosexual family-rearing, the patience of the senate and populace wore thin as the emperor routinely wore women's clothing and cosmetics, often displaying himself in the nude publicly.

The final act to seal Elagabalus's fate came not from his sexual proclivities, but from his religious beliefs. He installed the aforementioned Syrian god El-Gabal in the center of the Roman Pantheon, while he himself headed-up his worship, requiring Roman officials to be circumcised and attend the rites of the Syrian god. On March 11, 222, the senate and the Praetorian Guard could stand no more, and Elagabalus was violently assassinated, his body dragged through the streets of Rome and thrown into the Tiber.

References: RIC 308; BMC 429; C 173; Sear 7574

Grade: Brown patina with overall wear. Good strike with all elements visible. Good VF

If you are interested in this coin please email shanna@shannaschmidt.com

If you are interested in any other coins I have available please visit my website www.shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!

Shanna

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